

solidarnost je naša snaga

Solidary visit to war refugees at the border crossing Kelebija

Kelebija – hot days in the dust

August 4th 2016,

On August 4th 2016, we visited informal refugee camp in the “no man’s land” between Serbia and Hungary, near the village and the border crossing Kelebija. The refugees are located between the two border checkpoint, near the barbed wire fence that was placed on the Hungarian side.

We met with friends from the organization I’m Human, which at about 200 meters from the informal camp on the Serbian side, next to the line after that is not allowed into the border zone, have their own help and support spot. In addition to the caravan, which has been around for several months, they began with the construction of two large canopies made of wood, which will serve as a school for children and a place to rest. With the owner of the cafe located next to their spot, who is a Serbian refugee from Bosnia, they agreed to rent a part of the yard for a fee, where canopies will be. They told us that they are satisfied with the cooperation with him and that he is helping them.

Although it was previously possible to go to an informal camp, we learned that it is now much more difficult. Since the arrival of officers of the Commissariat for Refugees of Serbia, the controls are much stricter, and there were visits to the I am Human Spot a and questioning of volunteers by police officers following the reports of the Commissariat. Their only “guilt” is that they are trying to help people in need.

In the camp there were about 170 refugees, we learned that they are continue to arrive, although in smaller numbers than before, and that it happens for 2-3 days that no one new arrive. On the Hungarian side they are still sticking to the rule to let 10-15 people every day to cross the border in Hungary. We shared aid that we have collected, water, cookies, fruit and clothes. Although we brought a lot of clothes, it was not enough for everyone. Nevertheless, the mood of refugees is relatively good, despite of the difficult conditions of life and surviving war trauma, what seems to make them think positive is the fact that although slow, however, refugees are let, by Hungarian authorities to continue on their path towards the desired countries.

Written by: Violeta, Sofija, Mirko

